



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GRAY DAVIS, Governor



FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
PO BOX 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
Michael Flores
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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
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2003-2004 Upland Game Bird and Small Game Mammal Regulation Summary

License Year July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004

This summary is provided in lieu of regulation booklets. All laws or regulations in this summary are contained in the Fish and Game Code, in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, or in other Federal and State codes and regulations, as noted. **HUNTERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST COMPLY WITH ALL OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS, INCLUDING METHODS OF TAKE AND SHOOTING HOURS. PLEASE REFER TO COMPLETE REGULATION DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/regs.html, OR CONTACT A DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

License and Revenue Branch (Sacramento), (916) 227-2245
Headquarters (Sacramento), (916) 445-0411

Regional Offices: Redding, (530) 225-2300; Rancho Cordova, (916) 358-2900; Napa, (707) 944-5500; Fresno, (559) 243-4005; San Diego, (858) 467-4201; Chino Hills, (909) 597-9823

Alternate communication formats are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed call the Fish and Game Commission, (916) 653-4899, fgc@dfg.ca.gov or the California Relay Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones at (800) 735-2929.

Resident and Migratory Upland Game Bird, Resident Small Game Mammal, and American Crow Seasons and Bag/Possession Limits, 2003-2004

Species	Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Pheasant	November 8-December 21	2 males per day for first 2 days of the season; 3 males per day after the first 2 days of the season.	Double daily bag
Quail: Zone A (Mountain Quail Only)	September 13-October 17	10	20
Zone A (All Quail)	October 18-January 25		
Zone B	September 27-January 25		
Zone C	October 18-January 25		
Chukar	October 18-January 25	6	12
Sage Grouse (Hunting by permit only)	September 13-September 14	Lassen Zones-2 per day; 2 per season Inyo-Mono Zones-1 per day; 1 per season	
Blue/Ruffed Grouse	September 13-October 13	2; All of one species or mixed	4; Double daily bag
Ptarmigan	September13-September 21	2 per day or season	
Wild Turkey (Spring)	March 27-May 2	1 bearded	3 per season
Wild Turkey (Fall)	November 8-November 23	1 either sex	1 per season
Dove	September 1-15 November 8-December 22	10; All of one species or mixed	20; Double daily bag
Band-tailed Pigeon	September 20-28 (North) December 20-28 (South)	2	4
American Crow	December 6-April 7	24	48
Tree Squirrel	September 13-January 25	4	4
Rabbits & Varying Hare	July 1-January 25	5	10
Jackrabbits	Open all year	No limit	No limit
Snipe	October 18-February 1	8	16; Double daily bag

Quail Hunting Open Zone Area Descriptions

- a. **Zone A:** The early mountain quail season hunting zone includes the counties of Alpine, Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, and those portions of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Nevada, Placer, Tuolumne, Tulare, and Yuba counties lying east of the western boundary of the national forests.
- b. **Zone B:** The early coastal quail season (all species) hunting zone includes the counties of Marin, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino.
- c. **Zone C:** The balance of the state season (all species) hunting zone includes the remaining land area not included in Zone B (the counties of Marin, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino).

Band-tailed Pigeon Hunting Open Zone Area Descriptions

- a. **Northern Zone** : Includes the counties of Alpine, Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.
- b. **Southern Zone** : Includes the balance of the state not included in the northern zone described above.

Blue and Ruffed Grouse Hunting Open Zone Area Description: The open hunting zone for blue and ruffed grouse includes the following counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba. All other counties are closed to the taking of blue or ruffed grouse.

SELECTED HUNTING PROVISIONS

Validation of Licenses

To be valid, every California hunting or sport fishing license shall be signed by the licensee, and the license or validation stamp shall show the date of issue. In addition, the license shall contain the following information about the applicant: true name, residence address, year of birth, height, color of eyes, color of hair, weight, sex and driver's license or DMV I.D. number.

License Provisions

A California hunting license is required for taking any bird or mammal. Hunters must carry licenses and be prepared to show them on request. Guns and other equipment used in hunting must also be shown on request. In addition to a hunting license, state and federal duck stamps are required to take migratory waterfowl; an upland game bird stamp is required to take pheasants, wild turkey, doves, band-tailed pigeons, snipe, grouse, ptarmigan, quail, partridge and chukar.

Residency Requirements: A resident is defined as any person who has resided continuously in California for six months immediately before the date of application for a license, tag or permit; or persons on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or an auxiliary branch; or Job Corps enrollees.

DISCHARGING FIREARMS OR OTHER DEADLY WEAPONS: It is unlawful for any person, other than the owner, person in possession of the premises, or a person having the express permission of the owner or person in possession of the premises, to hunt or to discharge while hunting, any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards of any occupied dwelling house, residence, or other building or any barn or other outbuilding used in connection therewith. The 150-yard area is a "safety zone." (See Section 3004, Fish and Game Code.)

TRESPASS: If the land you hunt on is not your own, it belongs to someone else. Make sure you have a legal right to be there. Contact the owner or person who administers the property, and secure written

permission to hunt. A hunting license does not entitle you to enter private property. "It is unlawful to enter any lands under cultivation or enclosed by a fence, belonging to, or occupied by, another, or to enter any uncultivated or unenclosed lands, including lands temporarily inundated by waters flowing outside the established banks of a river, stream, slough, or other waterway, where signs forbidding trespass are displayed at intervals not less than three to the mile along all exterior boundaries and at all roads and trails entering such lands, for the purpose of discharging any firearm or taking or destroying any mammal or bird, including any waterfowl, on such lands without having first obtained written permission from the owner of such lands, or his agent, or the person in lawful possession thereof. Such signs may be of any size and wording, other than the wording required for signs under Section 2017, which will fairly advise persons about to enter the land that the use of such land is so restricted." Section 2016, Fish and Game Code.



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PROHIBITION ON LOADED RIFLE OR SHOTGUN IN VEHICLE

It is always unlawful to: Place on, or carry or possess a loaded rifle or shotgun in any vehicle or conveyance or its attachments which is standing on or along or is being driven on or along any public highway or other way open to the public. A rifle or shotgun shall be deemed to be loaded for the purposes of this section when there is an unexpended cartridge or shell in the firing chamber but not when the only cartridges or shells are in the magazine.* The provisions of this section shall not apply to peace officers or members of the armed forces of this state or the United States, while on duty or going to or returning from duty. Fish and Game Code Section 2006.

*NOTE: Hunters should be aware that subdivisions (a) and (g) of Section 12031 of the Penal Code provide that: (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), (c) or (d), every person who carries a loaded firearm on his or her person or in a vehicle while in any public place or on any public street in an incorporated city or in any public place or on any public street in a prohibited area of unincorporated territory is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(g) A firearm shall be deemed to be loaded for the purposes of this section when there is an unexpended cartridge or shell, consisting of a case which holds a charge of powder and a bullet or shot, in, or attached in any manner to, the firearm, including, but not limited to, in the firing chamber, magazine, or clip thereof attached to the firearm; except that a muzzle-loader firearm shall be deemed to be loaded when it is capped or primed and has a powder charge and ball orshot in the barrel or cylinder.

251.7. Possession, Transportation and Importation of Game Birds.

(a) No person may possess game birds taken in this state in excess of the daily bag and possession limits. The exception to this is for the purpose of transportation, cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment, or taxidermy services, where an individual may possess game birds taken by another hunter provided that they are tagged by the hunter who has lawfully taken them. The tag must contain the hunter’s name, address, hunting license number, kinds and numbers of game birds taken, date and location of kill, and signature.

(b) Migratory game birds, except band-tailed pigeons, transported within California must have a fully feathered wing or head attached while being moved from the place where taken to a personal abode or commercial preservation facility. Doves must have a fully feathered wing attached.

(c) Migratory game birds imported into California shall be accompanied by a declaration of entry as prescribed in Section 2353 of the Fish and Game Code.

(d) Only one possession limit of migratory game birds may be possessed per individual after the close of the season for that species.

257. Resident Small Game Defined.

“Resident small game” means the following resident game birds: Chinese spotted doves, ringed turtledoves of the family Columbidae; California quail and varieties thereof, Gambel or desert quail, mountain quail and varieties thereof, blue grouse and varieties thereof, ruffed grouse, sage grouse (sage hens), whitetailed ptarmigan, Hungarian partridges, redlegged partridges, including the chukar and other varieties, ring-necked pheasants and varieties, and wild turkeys of the order Galliformes; and the following game mammals: jackrabbits and varying hares (genus Lepus), cottontail rabbits, brush rabbits, pigmy rabbits (genus Sylvilagus), and tree squirrels (genus Sciurus and Tamiasciurus).

310. Shooting Hours on Resident Small Game Mammals.

The shooting hours for all resident small game mammals shall be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

310.5. Shooting Hours for Upland Game Birds.

The shooting hours for all upland game birds, except for pheasants and the spring wild turkey season, shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The shooting hours for pheasants shall be from 8:00 a.m. to sunset. The shooting hours for the spring wild turkey season shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 4:00 p.m.

311. Methods Authorized for Taking Resident Small Game.

Only the following may be used to take resident small game:

- (a) Shotguns 10 gauge or smaller using shot shells only and incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined. If a plug is used to reduce the capacity of a magazine to fulfill the requirements of this section, the plug must be of one piece construction incapable of removal without disassembling the gun;
- (b) Shotgun shells may not be used or possessed that contain shot size larger than No. BB, except that shot size larger than No. 2 may not be used or possessed when taking wild turkey. All shot shall be loose in the shell.
- (c) Muzzle-loading shotguns;
- (d) Falconry;
- (e) Bow and arrow (see Section 354 for archery equipment regulations);
- (f) Air rifles firing pellets and powered by compressed air or gas (0.20 caliber minimum for taking wild turkey); and firearm rifles and pistols for taking rabbits and squirrels, except in Los Angeles County, in addition to the methods listed in (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) above;
- (g) In San Diego County only, rabbits may be taken at any time during the open season by means of box traps. Such traps shall not exceed 24 inches in any dimension, shall be tended at least once every 24 hours, and shall show the name and address of the trap owner. All rabbits taken under this section shall be immediately killed and become a part of the daily bag limit;
- (h) Electronic or mechanically-operated calling or sound-reproducing devices are prohibited when attempting to take resident game birds;
- (i) Coursing dogs may be used to take rabbits;
- (j) Archers hunting during any archery season may not possess a firearm while in the field engaged in archery hunting during an archery season;
- (k) The use of live decoys is prohibited when attempting to take resident game birds;
- (l) Pistols and revolvers may be used to take blue and ruffed grouse in those counties only and for the season described in Section 300 (a)(1)(E).
- (m) Crossbows, except for provisions of Section 354(d) and (g).
- (n) Dogs may be used to take and retrieve resident small game.

313. Upland Game Bird Stamp.

Any adult license holder taking resident game birds including Chinese spotted doves, ringed turtle doves, of the family Columbidae; California quail and varieties thereof, Gambel’s or desert quail, mountain quail and varieties thereof; blue, ruffed, and sage grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, Hungarian partridges, red-legged partridges including the chukar and other varieties; ring-necked pheasants and varieties; and wild turkeys of the order Galliformes; and migratory game birds including common snipe, western mourning doves, white-winged doves, and bandtailed pigeons must have a current state upland game stamp affixed to their license.

509. Concurrence with Federal Regulations.

The regulations adopted by the United States through its Secretary of Interior under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended annually in Part 10, subparts A and B, and Part 20, Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, are hereby adopted and made a part of this Title 14 except where said federal regulations are less restrictive than the provisions of Chapter 7 of this Title 14 (Sections 500-509), the provisions of Chapter 7 prevail.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS RELATED TO BAITING

Federal regulations prohibiting hunting over bait for migratory game birds are incorporated by reference into State regulations pursuant to Section 509. Title 14, California Code of Regulations. Penalties for violating these regulations are severe. Persons may be fined up to \$15,000 and be sentenced to six months in jail if convicted of hunting over bait and be fined up to \$100,000 as an individual or \$200,000 as an organization and be sentenced to one year in prison if convicted of placing bait. *Simply stated, it is unlawful to take any migratory game bird by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.* The regulations provided below, for the benefit of hunters, are taken from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Information on all federal bait regulations, including those pertaining to agricultural planting, harvesting or post harvest manipulation may be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by telephone at (916) 414-6660.

Excerpts from 50 CFR Part 20, Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations Regarding Baiting and Baited Areas, Sections 20.11 (j)-(l) and 20.21 (i)(1) and (2) read as follows:

§20.11 (j) *Baited area* means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

(k) *Baiting* means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

(l) *Manipulation* means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term *manipulation* does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

No person shall take any migratory game birds:

§20.21 (i) By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. However, nothing in this paragraph prohibits:

(l) the taking of any migratory game bird, including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas.

(i) Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;

(ii) From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;

(iii) From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or

(iv) Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

(2) The taking of any migratory game bird, except waterfowl, coots and cranes, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.